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DEPARTMENT FOR OES/OFA/OPA, EAP/J

USDOC FOR NOAA ADMINISTRATOR DR. JOHN BYRNE AND FOR
NOAA/NMFS TO PASS TO F/M321, F/M2

E.O.12356: DECL: OADR
TAGS: EFIS, JA, BEXT, EAID, EAGR
SUBJECT: CONGRESSMAN AND MINISTER OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS
DISCUSS WHALES AND RICE.

1. (C - ENTIRE TEXT).

2. SUMMARY. CONGRESSMAN JOHN BREAUX TELLS GOJ
MINISTER OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS OF TOUGH U.S. STANCE
ON WHALING AND MINISTER RESPONDS THAT UNREASONABLE
IWC DECISIONS REQUIRE GOJ TO FILE OBJECTIONS TO
RECENT IWC DECISIONS IF THERE IS TO BE ANY FUTURE
TO WHALING IN JAPAN. DISCUSSION COVERS RAISING
WHALING AT SECRETARY OF STATE/MINISTER LEVEL.
CONGRESSMAN ASKS FOR GOJ CONSIDERATION IN USING
LOUISIANA RICE IN GOJ FOREIGN AID PACKAGES. END
SUMMARY.

3. ON AUGUST 22, CONGRESSMAN JOHN BREAUX MET WITH
GOJ FOREIGN MINISTER SHINTARO ABE. SHINTARO
YAMASHITA, DIRECTOR-GENERAL OF THE NORTH AMERICAN
AFFAIRS BUREAU OF THE MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS
(MOFA) WAS PRESENT ALONG WITH YOSHIYASU (PETER)
SATO, DEPUTY DIRECTOR-GENERAL OF THE ECONOMIC
AFFAIRS BUREAU OF MOFA. ACCOMPANYING CONGRESSMAN
BREAUX WERE STAFF MEMBERS TIM SMITH AND GLENN
DELANEY AND ECOUNS AND REGFISHATT.

4. MINISTER ABE MENTIONED THAT JAPAN'S WHALING
HISTORY INCLUDED ADMIRAL PERRY'S EFFORTS TO
ESTABLISH JAPAN AS A U.S. WHALING BASE. THE
MINISTER SAID THAT WHEN HE WAS MINISTER FOR
THE FORMER MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND FORESTRY
(NOW AGRICULTURE, FORESTRY AND FISHERIES) FROM
1974-76, HE WAS INSTRUMENTAL IN HAVING TAIYO
FISHERY COMPANY AND OTHER WHALING COMPANIES
ESTABLISH A JOINT WHALING COMPANY FOR THE
"PRESERVATION OF THE WHALE RESOURCES AND
MAINTAINANCE AND ADVANCEMENT OF WHALING TECHNOLOGY".
HE NOTED THAT AT THIS PRESENT TIME OF DIFFICULTY
THE COMPANY NOW SEEKS HIS SUPPORT IN ASSURING
THE CONTINUATION OF THE JAPANESE WHALING INDUSTRY.

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5. CONGRESSMAN BREAUX POINTED OUT THE SERIOUSNESS OF THE WHALING PROBLEM IN THE U.S. AND SAID THAT ANY WHALING BY JAPAN THAT CONTRAVENED DECISIONS OF THE IWC WOULD LEAD TO CERTIFICATION UNDER THE PACKWOOD AMENDMENT TO THE MAGNUSON FISHERY CONSERVATION AND MANAGEMENT ACT WITH RESULTANT SANCTIONS ON JAPANESE FISHING IN THE U.S. EXCLUSIVE ECONOMIC ZONE. HE NOTED THAT IT HAS BEEN REPORTED THAT GOJ TOLD USG OFFICIALS AT FISHERIES TRADE TALKS LAST WEEK IN WASHINGTON (AUGUST 16 AND 17) THAT USG SANCTIONS WOULD CAUSE JAPAN TO STOP PURCHASING U.S. FISHERIES PRODUCTS AND HE WAS TRYING TO HELP AVOID SUCH A SITUATION THAT WOULD HURT BOTH COUNTRIES. THE MINISTER RESPONDED THAT HE UNDERSTOOD THIS DIFFICULT SITUATION AND HE APPRECIATED THE CONGRESSMAN'S UNDERSTANDING OF THE GOJ POSITION. HOWEVER, HE SAID THAT IF THERE IS TO BE ANY FUTURE TO WHALING IN JAPAN, OBJECTIONS WOULD HAVE TO BE FILED TO THE RECENT QUOTAS EVEN THOUGH THIS WOULD LEAD TO DIFFICULTY WITH THE U.S. HE ASSERTED THAT GOJ ACTIONS REGARDING WHALING WERE CONSISTENT WITH SCIENTIFIC EVIDENCE AND THE PRESERVATION OF THE RESOURCE AND HE MENTIONED GOJ'S RECENT FOCUS ON COASTAL WHALING AS A SUBSISTENCE-TYPE ACTIVITY AND ANTARCTIC WHALING FOR SCIENTIFIC PURPOSES. THE MINISTER WAS RELYING ON USG/GOJ BILATERAL CONSULTATIONS ON WHALING TO FIND A MUTUALLY ACCEPTABLE SOLUTION TO THE PRESENT PROBLEM.

6. CONGRESSMAN BREAUX ASSURED MINISTER ABE THAT HE WAS WILLING TO TAKE STEPS AT THE APPROPRIATE TIME TO HAVE PRESENT USG WHALING POLICY REVIEWED BUT THAT ANY SUCH MOVE WOULD HAVE TO BE BASED ON DISCUSSIONS AT THE MINISTER/SECRETARY OF STATE LEVEL. MINISTER ABE REPLIED THAT HE HAS OFTEN CONSULTED WITH THE SECRETARY OF STATE ON THIS ISSUE AND THERE HAVE BEEN WRITTEN EXCHANGES AS WELL.

7. AT THE END OF THEIR DISCUSSIONS, CONGRESSMAN MENTIONED THAT HIS LOUISIANA DISTRICT WAS NOT ONLY THE LARGEST FISH PRODUCER IN THE UNITED STATES BUT ALSO THE COUNTRY'S BIGGEST RICE PRODUCER. IN THIS REGARD, THOUGH HE REALIZED GOJ HAD NO

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SUBJECT: CONGRESSMAN AND MINISTER OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS

NEED OR INTEREST IN IMPORTING RICE FOR DOMESTIC CONSUMPTION, THE CONGRESSMAN ASKED FOR FAVORABLE GOJ CONSIDERATION OF LOUISIANA RICE AS A POSSIBLE SOURCE OF RICE THAT GOJ MIGHT USE IN THE FUTURE AS PART OF AID SHIPMENTS TO THIRD COUNTRIES. BREAUX NOTED THAT LOUISIANA RICE WAS SIMILAR TO THAT USED IN COUNTRIES TO WHICH JAPAN EXPORTS RICE SUPPLIES IN FOREIGN AID PACKAGES. ABE CONFIRMED THAT GOJ HAD EXPORTED RICE FOR THIS PURPOSE AND THAT THERE MIGHT BE A "GOOD POSSIBILITY" FOR SHIPMENTS IN THE FUTURE. IF SO, HE WAS GLAD TO BE AWARE OF LOUISIANA RICE BECAUSE CALIFORNIA RICE WAS ALREADY WELL-KNOWN IN JAPAN.

8. FYI: AT A LATER MEETING, TADASHI IMAI,

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DIRECTOR OF THE FAR SEAS FISHERY DIVISION
OF THE DEPARTMENT OF OCEANIC FISHERIES OF THE
FISHERY AGENCY OF JAPAN (FAJ) TOLD THE
REGFISHATT THAT ALTHOUGH WHALING IS NO LONGER
CONDUCTED IN THE FOREIGN MINISTER'S DISTRICT
IN YAMAGUCHI PREFECTURE IN WESTERN JAPAN, IT
WAS AN ACTIVE INDUSTRY WHEN THE MINISTER WAS A
BOY AND THE PEOPLE OF THE REGION STILL HAVE A
FONDNESS FOR WHALE PRODUCTS.

MANSFIELD

END OF MESSAGE

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